

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T GENEVA 0060

EXDIS

FROM STERNER

E.O.11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR

SUBJ MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

1. INDICATING HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM AMMAN, JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ZREIKAT CALLED ON ME JANUARY 4. HE SAID AMMAN HAD ASKED HIM TO GET READING ON HOW MILITARY TALKS WERE GOING AND WHEN STAGE MIGHT BE REACHED WHEN JORDAN-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN. WERE ANY PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR THIS EVENTUALITY? HE PRESSED ME TO GIVE ESTIMATE OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO ACHIEVE EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ON LAST POINT I SAID I JUST COULD NOT HELP HIM. TALKS WERE PROCEEDING IN SATISFACTORY MANNER BUT EVEN WITH LIMITED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THERE WERE COMPLICATED QUESTIONS TO WORK OUT AND I COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED.

2. ON ZREIKAT'S QUESTION ABOUT JORDAN-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS, I SAID JORDAN WAS VERY MUCH MEMBER OF CONFERENCE AND WE ASSUMED NEGOTIATIONS ON JORDANIAN ASPECT WOULD START AT APPROPRIATE STAGE. WE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO PROCEED AT GENEVA IN MOST PRACTICAL WAY. FOR MOMENT IT APPEARED BEST TO CONCEN-
SECRET

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TRATE ON GETTING EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHED EXPEDITIOUSLY. GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AT KILOMETER 101 AND IN TALKS BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTIES THROUGH USG. WE ALSO BELIEVED SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF EGYPT-ISRAEL

DISENGAGEMENT WOULD MATERIALLY IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS ON OTHER FRONTS.

3. ZREIKAT'S CONVERSATION WITH ME TOOK FORM MAINLY OF QUESTIONS, BUT UNDER SYG GUYER TELLS ME THAT WHEN ZREIKAT CALLED ON HIM FOLLOWING DAY HE TOOK MORE DECLARATORY LINE. ACCORDING TO GUYER, ZREIKAT SAID IT WAS AMMAN'S VIEW THAT START OF JORDAN-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS NEED NOT AWAIT CONCLUSION OF CURRENT EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT TALKS.BASSIN

SECRET

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